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# **corn growers**

**association of north carolina, inc.**

October 24, 2005

7520-102 LEAD MINE ROAD  
RALEIGH, NC 27615

The Honorable Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, South West  
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: IB Docket# 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Corn Growers Association of North Carolina would like to express our views regarding rural communications. This is an important issue to our membership.

We understand technology exists which will allow cell phones to receive a signal from a cell tower and a satellite. In order to overcome the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced integrated satellite/terrestrial systems. We believe that mobile satellite service is one way to improve rural communications and will allow our members to use their time more efficiently.

Currently, many farmers must make calls from a landline because broadband coverage is intermittent or does not exist. Since this mobile satellite service will effectively end coverage "dead zones," farmers could call and get replacement parts, talk with employees, or stay in contact with the N. C. State Farm Service Agency concerning information and regulations without leaving the field and without worrying about their mobile connection. We see this as a real benefit to Americans in rural areas.

For the reasons above and in an effort to increase broadband access to rural communities, we urge the Commission to move expeditiously to allocate the 20MHz of spectrum on a pro rata basis TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. and ICO Satellite Services respectively.

Sincerely,

*Ronnie Burleson*

Ronnie Burleson, President  
Corn Growers Association of NC

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